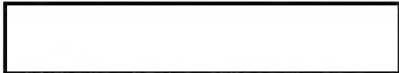


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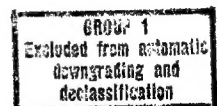
MEMORANDUM FOR: Executive Secretary, USIB
SUBJECT: Historical Chronologies

As promised in our recent conversation, I am forwarding for your information a list of selected historical chronologies available in the Agency, and as indicated, in the Historical Staff. This list was prepared by Dr. Martin P. Claussen of the Historical Staff, who will be happy to discuss any aspect of this subject with you.


Howard M. Ehrmann
Chief, CIA Historical Staff

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Selected Chronologies of World Events, 1946 to date

Published chronological listings and narratives of world events since 1946 exist in great profusion, scattered in U.S. and foreign historical literature in books, magazine and newspaper articles, and pamphlets, and varying widely in format, subject arrangement, length and degree of detail, and perspective and bias. Whether simple or complex, a given chronology is normally tailored to a particular historical problem, or used for reconstructing a particular sequence of events crucial to a given policy issue. There are many thousands of such publications (listed in the CIA Library catalog, the Library of Congress catalogs, and the established periodical indexes, etc.) that contain chronological tracings on particular subjects of world affairs in the postwar period. Chronologies exist in even greater profusion, no doubt, in unpublished form, among the archives of those governmental, academic, and industrial communities, in the U.S. and abroad, which have been significantly involved in one way or another with aspects of world affairs during the past 25 years.

General Compilations

Some chronologies are particularly comprehensive, authoritative, and detailed. In English-language materials,

seven compilations (all of them on file in the CIA Library's reference shelf) are especially noteworthy, as follows.

From the U.S. viewpoint, three compilations are basic for establishing dates and chronological sequences: (1) The annual volumes on United States and World Affairs, issued by the Council on Foreign Relations (in print through 1966); (2) the annual volumes of Current Documents on U.S. foreign policy, compiled by the State Department Historical Office (in print through 1966); and (3) the annual volumes of the New York Times Index (through 1967), especially the detailed chronological sequences which are cross-referenced under each of several regional, topical, and organizational headings relating basically to U.S. foreign relations.

Two series are useful for the British viewpoint: (4) the annual volumes of Surveys and Documents of the Royal Institute of International Affairs (in print through 1961); and (5) the Annual Register of World Events, which contains chronologies, but only from 1956 through 1968.

Considerably less detailed, but authoritative and comprehensive, are (6) William L. Langer, Encyclopedia of World History (1968 ed.), and (7) Neville Williams, Chronology of the Modern World, 1763 to the Present Time (1966).

Regional and Topical Compilations

By the way of example, listed below are several detailed chronologies of particular areas and topics selected from the CIA

Library's reference shelf. (Items marked with an asterisk * are also on file in the Historical Staff.) Most of them were compiled by the Library of Congress for various Congressional committees concerned with Foreign affairs. Included are chronologies on Berlin, Southeast Asia, the Dominican Republic, the Middle East, astronautic events, and disarmament.

U.S. Senate (85th Cong., 1st sess.), Committee on Foreign Relations, Events in the Middle East; A Select Chronology, 1946-1957. Compiled by Library of Congress, Legislative Reference Service. 1957. 25 pp. Cat.: DS. 61 .U5

U.S. Senate (90th Cong., 1st sess.), Committee on Foreign Relations, A Select Chronology and Background Documents Relating to Middle East [1946-67]. Compiled by Library of Congress, Legislative Reference Service. 1967, 151 pp. Later edition (1st revised ed., 1969, 287 pp.) contains chronology from April 1946 to April 1969. Cat.: DS 61 .U51 (Ref)*

Chronology of Arab Politics, January 1963-September 1966. (15 in the series on the shelves). Published by the Political Studies and Public Administration Department of the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. Editors, Walid Khalidi and Yusuf Ibish. Cat.: DS 63 .A52 E5 (Ref)

Library of Congress, Legislative Reference Service, Berlin; A Chronology Summary with an Analytical Commentary, 1944-1961. 1959-61, 4 vols. Cat.: DD 881 .U5 (Ref)

U.S. Senate (89th Cong., 1st sess.), Committee on Foreign Relations, Background Information Relating to Southeast Asia and Vietnam. March 1969, 5th ed., 272 pp. Cat.: DS 518.8 .U51 (Ref)*

U.S. Senate (89th Cong., 1st sess.), Committee on Foreign Relations, Background Information Relating to the Dominican Republic. 1965, 100pp. Cat.: F 1938.5 .U52*

Free Europe Press, A Chronology of Events in Albania New York: Free Europe Committee, Inc. (September, 1955) 130 pp. Cat.: DR 701 .586 F8 C-2

Library of Congress. Legislative Reference Service,
World Communist Movement; Selective Chronology 1818-1957.
Prepared for use of the House Committee on Un-American
Activities. 1960, 4 vols. Cat.: X 1.5 .U5 *

U.S. Senate (84th Cong., 2d sess.), Committee on
Foreign Relations, Disarmament; A Selected Chronology,
January 1, 1918-March 19, 1956. Compiled by Subcommittee
on Disarmament, Staff Study No. 2. 1959, 33 pp. Cat.: JX
1974 .A1 U53 (Ref)

U.S. House of Representatives (87th Cong., 1st sess.),
A Chronology of Missile and Astronautic Events. Report of
the Committee on Science and Astronautics, House Report
No. 67. 1961, 189 pp. Cat.: TL 788.5 .U51 *